

National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse

The Urologic Diseases Dictionary



U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NIDDK | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE
AND KIDNEY DISEASES

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Some terms listed have many meanings; only those meanings that relate to urologic diseases are included. Words that appear in ***bold italic*** are listed elsewhere in the dictionary.

Information in this dictionary is not a substitute for a visit to your doctor. Talk with a health professional if you have a urologic problem.

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Pronunciation Guide

This pronunciation guide uses letters and letter combinations, rather than phonetic symbols, to stand for the various sounds in the English language.

Vowels

a	cat, bat
ah	father
air	pear, hair
ar	park
ay	say, came, weigh
aw	saw, bought
e	bet, set
eh	(used at the <i>end</i> of a syllable or when standing alone) examples: meadow (MEH-doh) enemy (EH-nuh-mee) <i>but</i> diet (DY-et)
ee	feet, neat
i	sit, igloo
ih	(used at the <i>end</i> of a syllable or when standing alone) examples: chicken (CHIH-ken) miracle (MIHR-ih-kuhl) <i>but</i> picnic (PIK-nik)
ihr	near, here
y	fire, idol
eye	(used at the <i>beginning</i> of a syllable or when standing alone) examples: iron (EYE-urn) chloride (KLOR-eyed) <i>but</i> silent (SY-luhnt)

o	hot, cot
oh	coat, home
oo	food, rude
or	tore, soar, for
oy	soil, boy
ou	now, couch
u	put, foot
uh	about, sum, china
ur	hurt, alert
yoo	use
yoor	cure

Consonants

b	bat, job
ch	chop, itch
d	dig, bed
f	fur, tough, calf
g	grape, big
h	happy
j	joke, nudge
k	kite, car, tack
l	lip, sell
m	move, jam
n	not, knee
ng	ring
p	play, hop
r	rain, fur
s	set, tips
ss	bus, guess, fence
sh	shy, fish
t	toy, boat
th	breath
v	vine, have
w	walk, where
y	yes
z	zip, jazz, has
zh	measure

acute (uh-KYOOT): refers to conditions that happen suddenly and last a short time. Acute is the opposite of **chronic**, or long lasting.

ADH (AY-DEE-AYTCH): see **antidiuretic hormone**.

albuminuria (al-BYOO-min-YOO-ree-uh): a condition in which the **urine** has more than normal amounts of a **protein** called albumin. Albuminuria may be a sign of **kidney** disease.

amino acids (uh-MEE-noh) (ASS-idz): the basic building blocks of **proteins**. The body produces many amino acids and others come from food, which the body breaks down for use by the cells. See **protein**.

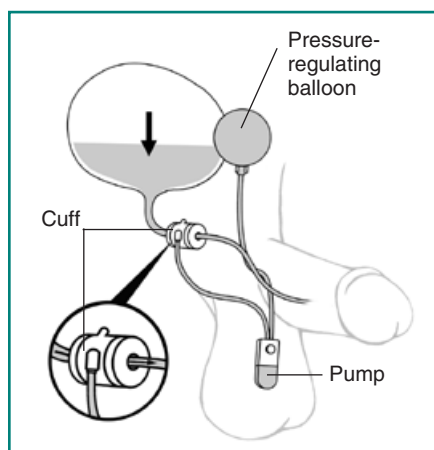
antibiotic (AN-tee-by-OT-ik): a medicine that kills **bacteria**.

antidiuretic hormone (ADH) (AN-tee-DY-yoo-RET-ik) (HOR-mohn): a natural body chemical that slows down the production of **urine**. Some children who wet the bed regularly may lack normal amounts of antidiuretic hormone. Also called **vasopressin**.

anuria (an-YOO-ree-uh): a condition in which the body stops making **urine**.

artificial bladder (AR-tuh-FIH-shuhl) (BLAD-ur): a **bladder** grown in a laboratory and transplanted into a patient's **pelvis** to replace a diseased bladder. The term is also occasionally used to describe a **bladder substitute**.

artificial urinary sphincter (AUS) (AR-tuh-FIH-shuhl) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (SFINGK-tur): an implanted device for men that keeps the **urethra** closed until the wearer is ready to **urinate**. The device consists of a cuff that fits around the urethra, a small balloon reservoir placed in the abdomen, and a pump placed in the scrotum.



Artificial urinary sphincter

A-B

AUS (AY-YOO-ESS): see *artificial urinary sphincter*.

autoimmune disease (AW-toh-ih-MYOON) (dih-ZEEZ): a disorder of the body's *immune system* in which the immune system mistakenly attacks and destroys body tissue it believes to be foreign.

bacteria (bak-TIHR-ee-uh): tiny organisms that cause infection or disease.

bacteriuria (bak-TIHR-ee-YOO-ree-uh): a condition in which the *urine* contains *bacteria*.

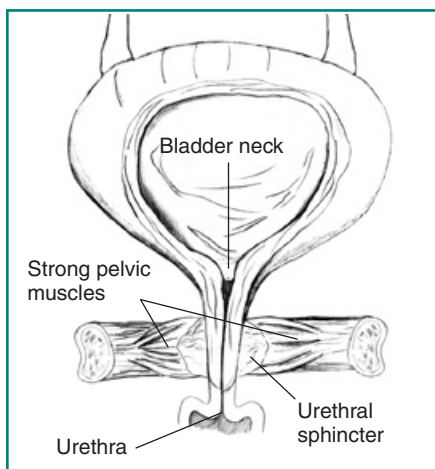
balloon dilation (buh-LOON) (dy-LAY-shuhn): a treatment for *benign prostatic hyperplasia* or *prostate* enlargement. A tiny balloon is inflated inside the *urethra* to make it wider so *urine* can flow more freely from the *bladder*.

benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) (bee-NYN) (pross-TAT-ik) (hy-pur-PLAY-zhee-uh): an enlarged *prostate* not caused by cancer. BPH can cause problems with urination because the enlarged prostate squeezes the *urethra* at the opening of the *bladder*.

biofeedback (BY-oh-FEED-bak): a way of training a patient to control muscles such as the *bladder control* muscles with the use of electronic devices that monitor muscle and nerve impulses. The electronic devices convert nerve impulses into sound or visual signals so the patient knows when he or she is performing the correct action.

biopsy (BY-op-see): a procedure in which a tiny piece of tissue, such as from the *kidney* or *bladder*, is removed for examination with a microscope.

bladder (BLAD-ur): the balloon-shaped organ inside the *pelvis* that holds *urine*.

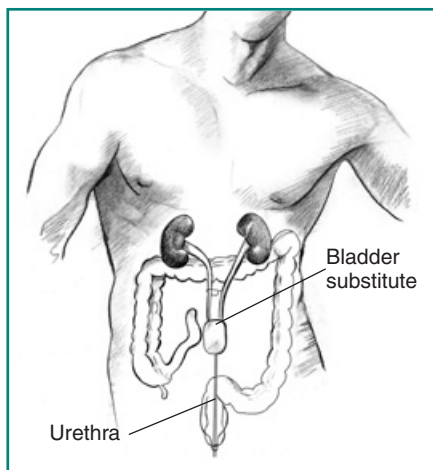


Bladder

bladder control (BLAD-ur) (kon-TROHL): see *continence*.

bladder outlet obstruction (BOO) (BLAD-ur) (OUT-let) (ob-STRUHK-shuhn): any blockage at the *urethra* or the opening of the *bladder*.

bladder substitute (BLAD-ur) (SUHB-stih-toot): a *urinary diversion* in which *urine* is stored in an internal pouch made from the patient's bowel. The pouch is connected to the patient's *urethra* rather than a *stoma*. Also called a *neobladder*. See *continent cutaneous reservoir*.



Bladder substitute

bladder training (BLAD-ur) (TRAYN-ing): a strategy for making the *bladder* able to hold more *urine* for longer periods of time using *timed voiding* and *Kegel exercises*.

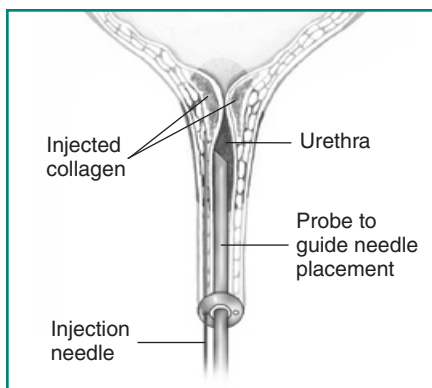
B

blood urea nitrogen (BUN) (bluhd) (yoo-REE-uh) (NY-troh-jen): a waste product in the blood that comes from the breakdown of *protein*. The *kidneys* filter blood to remove *urea*. As kidney function decreases, the BUN level increases.

BOO (BEE-OH-OH): see *bladder outlet obstruction*.

BPH (BEE-PEE-AYTCH): see *benign prostatic hyperplasia*.

bulking agent (BUHLK-ing) (AY-jent): a substance injected into the *urethra* around the opening of the *bladder* to treat *stress urinary incontinence*. Bulking agents include *collagen*, silicon, and Teflon.



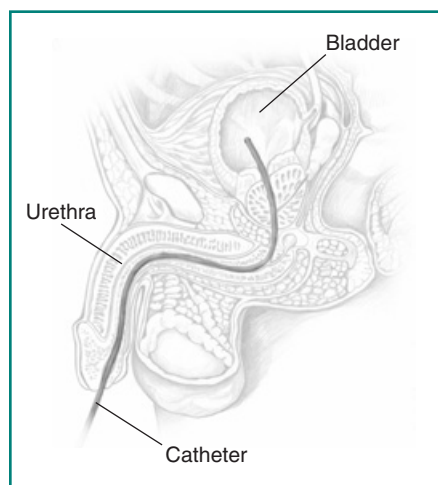
Injection of collagen as a bulking agent

BUN (BEE-YOO-EN): see *blood urea nitrogen*.

calcium (KAL-see-uhm): a mineral the body needs for strong bones and teeth. Calcium may form *stones* in the *kidney*.

calcium oxalate stone (KAL-see-uhm) (OK-suh-layt) (stohn): a *kidney stone* made from *calcium* and *oxalate*.

catheter (KATH-uh-tur): a thin, flexible tube inserted through the *urethra* to the *bladder* to drain *urine*. Placement of the catheter is called catheterization.



Catheter

chronic (KRON-ik): refers to disorders that last a long time, often years. Chronic *kidney* disease may develop over many years and lead to *end-stage renal disease*. Chronic is the opposite of *acute*, or brief.

chronic prostatitis (KRON-ik) (PROSS-tuh-TY-tiss): *inflammation* of the *prostate gland* that develops slowly and lasts a long time.

clean catch urine specimen (kleen) (kach) (YOOR-in) (SPESS-uh-muhn): a *urine* sample obtained after the area around the opening of the *urethra* has been cleaned. A clean catch specimen is taken in the middle of the urine stream so any remaining *bacteria* are flushed away. See *midstream urine collection*.

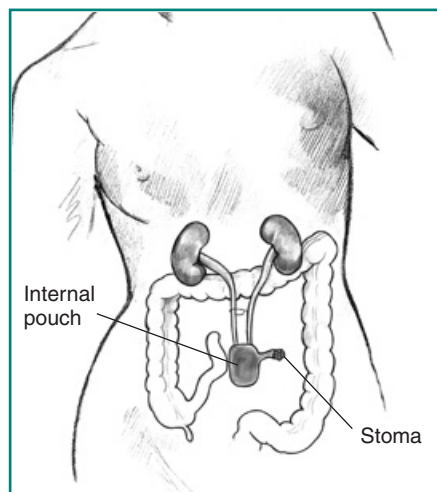
collagen (KOL-luh-jen): a threadlike *protein* in humans and animals, sometimes used as a *bulking agent* to treat *urinary incontinence*.

continence (KON-tih-nenss): the ability to control the timing of urination or a bowel movement.

C

continent cutaneous reservoir

(KON-tih-nent) (kyoo-TAY-nee-uhss) (REZ-ur-vwar): a **urinary diversion** in which **urine** is stored in an internal pouch made from a portion of the patient's bowel. Urine is removed by inserting a **catheter** through the **stoma** to drain the urine. Different kinds of continent cutaneous reservoirs include the **Indiana pouch** and the **Kock pouch**.



Continent cutaneous reservoir

cryptorchidism (krip-TOR-kih-

dizm): undescended testicles.

In most boys, the testicles descend from the abdomen into the scrotum during fetal development. This condition is rare.

cyst (sist): an abnormal sac

containing gas, fluid, or a semisolid material. Cysts may form in the **kidneys** or in other parts of the body.

cystine stone (SISS-teen) (stohn):

a rare form of **kidney stone** consisting of the **amino acid** cystine.

cystinuria (SISS-tih-NYOO-ree-

uh): a condition in which **urine** contains high levels of the **amino acid** cystine. If cystine does not dissolve in the urine, it can build up to form **kidney stones**.

cystitis (siss-TY-tiss): **inflammation**

of the **bladder**, causing pain and a burning feeling in the **pelvis** or **urethra**.

C-D

cystocele (SISS-toh-seel): a fallen *bladder*. A bladder that falls or sags from its normal position down to the pelvic floor can result in either urinary leakage or *urinary retention*.

cystometrogram (SISS-toh-MET-roh-gram): a line graph that records urinary *bladder* pressure at various volumes.

cystoplasty (SISS-toh-PLASS-tee): surgery to reconstruct a damaged urinary *bladder*.

cystoscope (SISS-toh-skohp): a tubelike instrument used to look inside the *urethra* and *bladder*. The procedure is called cystoscopy.

cystourethrogram (SISS-toh-yoo-REETH-roh-gram): an x-ray image of the *urinary tract* taken during urination.

DDAVP (DEE-DEE-AY-VEE-PEE): see *desmopressin*.

desmopressin (DESS-moh-PRESS-in): a synthetic form of *antidiuretic hormone* used to treat *enuresis* and *diabetes insipidus*. Also called *DDAVP*.

detrusor muscle (dee-TROO-sor) (MUHSS-uhl): a muscle that pushes a liquid or substance out of an organ. The muscle in the *bladder* wall is a detrusor muscle.

diabetes (DY-uh-BEE-teez): a condition characterized by high blood *glucose*, resulting from the body's inability to use blood glucose for energy. In type 1 diabetes, the *pancreas* no longer makes *insulin*, and therefore glucose cannot enter the cells to be used for energy. In type 2 diabetes, either the pancreas does not make enough insulin or the body is unable to use insulin correctly.

diabetes insipidus (DY-uh-BEE-teez) (in-SIH-puh-duhss): a condition characterized by frequent and heavy urination, excessive thirst, and an overall feeling of weakness. This condition may be caused by a defect in the *pituitary gland* or the *kidney*. In diabetes insipidus, blood *glucose* levels are normal. See *nephrogenic diabetes insipidus*.

D-E

digital rectal examination (DRE) (DIH-juh-tuhl) (REK-tuhl) (ek-ZAM-ih-NAY-shuhn): a procedure in which the examiner inserts a lubricated, gloved finger into the patient's rectum to feel the *prostate*, ovaries, or other internal organs.

diuretic (DY-yoo-RET-ik): an oral medicine that lowers blood pressure by aiding the *kidneys* in removing fluid from the blood.

DRE (DEE-AR-EE): see *digital rectal examination*.

dysfunctional voiding (diss-FUHNK-shuhn-uhl) (VOYD-ing): a person's inability to relax the appropriate muscles when trying to *urinate* or the inability to control spasms and leakage when trying to hold urine in the *bladder*. This condition is most common in children. Dysfunctional voiding may be caused by nerve damage, but it is often the result of poor voiding habits, such as delaying a trip to the bathroom because the child is engaged in an enjoyable activity.

ectopic kidney (ek-TOP-ik) (KID-nee): a birth defect in which a *kidney* is in an abnormal position.

ED (EE-DEE): see *erectile dysfunction*.

ejaculation (ee-JAK-yoo-LAY-shuhn): the sudden release of semen through the *penis* during sexual climax.

electrical stimulation (ee-LEK-truh-kuhl) (STIM-yoo-LAY-shun): the use of a mild electrical current applied to the nerves that control the *bladder* to treat urinary and fecal *incontinence*.

end-stage renal disease (ESRD) (END-STAYJ) (REE-nuhl) (dih-ZEEZ): total and permanent *kidney* failure. When the kidneys fail, the body retains fluid. Harmful wastes build up. A person with ESRD needs treatment to replace the work of the failed kidneys.

endoscope (EN-doh-skohp): any tubelike instrument used to look inside the body. Endoscopes used for urologic exams include the *cystoscope* and the *ureterscope*.

E-F

enuresis (EN-yoo-REE-siss):

urinary incontinence not caused by a physical disorder. The term enuresis is usually used as a synonym for bedwetting, although the term can also be used to describe daytime incontinence. Daytime incontinence is called diurnal enuresis. Bedwetting, or nighttime incontinence, is called nocturnal enuresis.

erectile dysfunction (ED) (ee-REK-tyl) (diss-FUHNK-shuhn): the inability to get or maintain an *erection* for satisfactory sexual intercourse. Also called *impotence*.

erection (ee-REK-shuhn): enlargement and hardening of the *penis* caused by increased blood flow into the penis and decreased blood flow out of it as a result of sexual excitement.

ESRD (EE-ESS-AR-DEE): see *end-stage renal disease*.

ESWL (EE-ESS-DUHB-uhl-YOO-EL): see *extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy*.

extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) (EKS-truh-kor-POH-ree-uhl) (shok) (wayv) (LITH-oh-TRIP-see): a nonsurgical procedure using shock waves to break up *kidney stones*.

frequency (FREE-kwen-see):

see *urinary frequency*.

functional incontinence (FUNK-shun-uhl) (in-KON-tih-nenss): *incontinence* caused by physical disability, external obstacles, or problems in thinking or communicating that prevent a person from reaching a toilet in time.

G-H

genitals (JEN-ih-tuhls): sex organs, including the *penis* and *testicles* in men and the *vagina*, *vulva*, and *uterus* in women.

glucose (GLOO-kohss): one of the simplest forms of sugar.

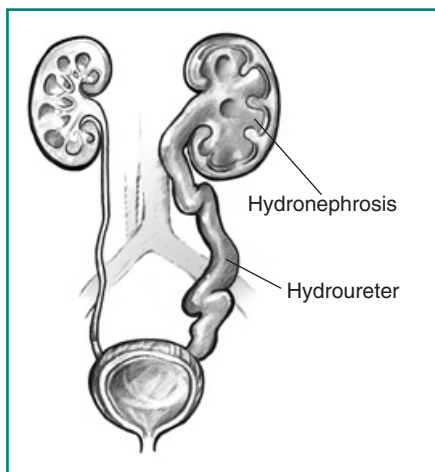
hematuria (HEE-muh-TYOO-ree-uh): blood in the *urine*, which can be a sign of a *kidney stone* or other urinary problem.

hormone (HOR-mohn): a natural chemical produced in one part of the body and released into the blood to trigger or regulate particular body functions. *Antidiuretic hormone* tells the *kidneys* to slow down *urine* production.

hydronephrosis (HY-droh-neh-FROH-siss): backup and buildup of extra *urine* within the *kidney* and *renal pelvis*, usually because something is blocking urine from flowing into or out of the *bladder*.

H

hydroureter (HY-droh-YOOR-uh-tur): backup and buildup of extra *urine* within the *ureter*, usually because something is blocking urine from flowing into or out of the *bladder*.



Hydronephrosis and hydroureter

hypercalciuria (HY-pur-KAL-see-YOO-ree-uh): abnormally large amounts of *calcium* in the *urine*, leading to *kidney stones*.

hyperoxaluria (HY-pur-OK-suh-LYOO-ree-uh): unusually large amounts of *oxalate* in the *urine*, leading to *kidney stones*.

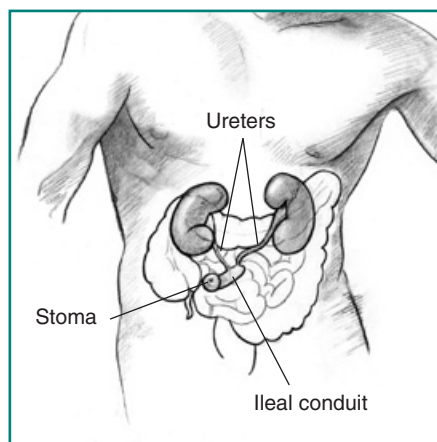
hyperplasia (hy-pur-PLAY-zhee-uh): growth of cells that do not lead to cancer in an organ or other tissues. See *benign prostatic hyperplasia*.

hypospadias (HY-poh-SPAY-dee-uhss): a birth defect in which the opening of the *urethra*, called the urinary meatus, is on the underside of the *penis* instead of at the tip.

I

IC (EYE-SEE): see *intermittent catheterization* and *interstitial cystitis*.

ileal conduit (IL-ee-uhl) (KON-doo-it): a kind of *urostomy* in which a section of the bowel is surgically removed from the digestive tract and repositioned to serve as a passage for *urine* from the *kidneys* and *ureters* to a *stoma*.



Ileal conduit urostomy

immune system (ih-MYOON) (SISS-tuhm): the body's system for protecting itself from viruses and *bacteria* or any foreign substances.

immunosuppressant (IM-yoo-noh-soo-PRESS-uhnt): a drug given to stop the natural responses of the body's *immune system*. Immunosuppressants are given to prevent organ rejection in people who have received a *transplant*—for example, a kidney transplant—and to people with certain *autoimmune diseases*, such as lupus.

impotence (IM-puh-tenss): see *erectile dysfunction*.

incontinence (in-KON-tih-nenss): loss of *bladder* or bowel control; the accidental loss of *urine* or *stool*.

Indiana pouch (IN-dee-AN-uh) (powch): see *continent cutaneous reservoir*.

indwelling urinary catheter (IN-dweh-ling) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (KATH-uh-tur): a *catheter* placed in the *bladder* and *urethra* to release and collect *urine* over long periods of time.

inflammation (IN-fluh-MAY-shuhn): swelling and redness that results from injury to tissue.

insulin (IN-suh-lin): a *hormone* that helps the body use *glucose* for energy.

I-K

intermittent catheterization (IC) (IN-tur-MIT-ent) (KATH-uh-tur-eye-ZAY-shuhn): short-term use of a *catheter* to release and collect *urine*. The catheter is removed as soon as the *bladder* is completely empty.

interstitial cystitis (IC) (IN-tur-STISH-uhl) (siss-TY-tiss): a disorder that causes the *bladder* wall to become swollen and irritated, leading to scarring and stiffening of the bladder, decreased bladder capacity, and, in rare cases, ulcers in the bladder lining. IC is also called *painful bladder syndrome*.

intravenous pyelogram (IN-truh-VEE-nuhss) (PY-el-oh-GRAM): an x ray of the *urinary tract*. A dye is injected into a vein in the patient's arm, travels through the body to the *kidneys*, and makes *urine* visible on the x ray and to show any blockage in the *urinary tract*.

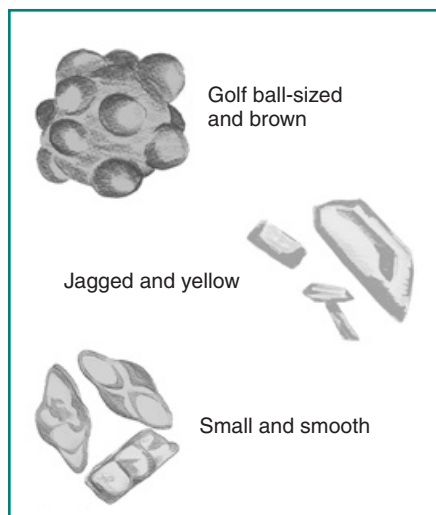
irrigation (IHR-ih-GAY-shuhn): flushing the *bladder* or a *continent cutaneous reservoir* using a stream of water delivered through a *catheter*.

Kegel exercises (KEG-uhl) (EK-sur-SYZ-iz): tightening and relaxing the muscles that hold *urine* in the *bladder* and hold the bladder in its proper position. These exercises can improve a person's ability to hold in urine. Also called *pelvic muscle exercises*.

kidney (KID-nee): one of the two bean-shaped organs that filter wastes from the blood. The kidneys are located near the middle of the back, one on each side of the spine. They create *urine*, which is delivered to the *bladder* through tubes called *ureters*.

K-L

kidney stone (KID-nee) (stohn): a stone that develops from crystals that form in *urine* and build up on the inner surfaces of the *kidney*, in the *renal pelvis*, or in the *ureters*. Kidney stones include *calcium oxalate stones*, *cystine stones*, *struvite stones*, and *uric acid stones*. See *nephrolithiasis*.



Kinds of kidney stones

Kock pouch (kohk) (powch): see *continent cutaneous reservoir*.

lithotripsy (LITH-oh-TRIP-see): a method of breaking up *kidney stones* by using shock waves or other means.

lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) (LOH-wur) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (trakt) (SIMP-tuhmz): urinary symptoms—such as *urinary frequency* and *urgency*, difficulty starting a stream, and incomplete *voiding*—that suggest urinary problems, such as *benign prostatic hyperplasia*, *urinary tract infection*, or *kidney stones*.

LUTS (lootss): see *lower urinary tract symptoms*.

M–N

megaureter (MEG-uh-YOOR-uh-tur): see *hydroureter*.

micturition (MIK-choo-RISH-uhn): the act of urinating.

midstream urine collection (MID-streem) (YOOR-in) (kuh-LEK-shuhn): a method used to obtain a *clean catch urine specimen*. The patient starts a stream of *urine* into the toilet, and then catches the urine in a sample cup as the stream continues.

mixed urinary incontinence (miks-d) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (in-KON-tih-nenss): a combination of different types of *incontinence*, usually *stress urinary incontinence* and *urge urinary incontinence*.

needle ablation (NEE-duhl) (ab-LAY-shuhn): see *TUNA* under *transurethral*.

neobladder (NEE-oh-BLAD-ur): see *bladder substitute*.

nephrectomy (neh-FREK-toh-mee): surgical removal of a *kidney*.

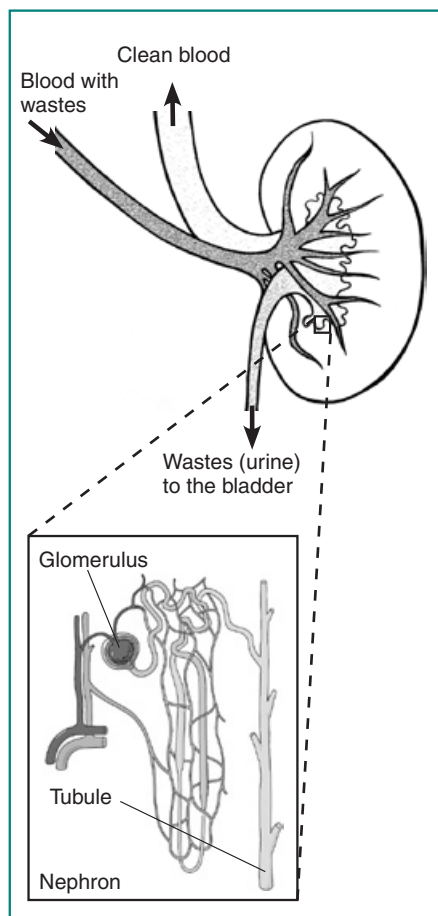
nephritis (neh-FRY-tiss): *inflammation* of the kidneys.

nephrogenic diabetes insipidus (NEF-roh-JEN-ik) (DY-uh-BEE-teez) (in-SIH-puh-duhss): constant thirst and frequent urination because the *kidney* tubules cannot respond to *antidiuretic hormone*. The result is an increase in *urine* formation and excessive urine flow.

nephrolithiasis (NEF-roh-lih-THY-uh-siss): the condition of having *kidney stones*.

N

nephron (NEF-ron): a tiny part of the *kidneys*. Each kidney is made up of about 1 million nephrons, which are the working units of the kidneys, removing wastes and extra fluids from the blood.



Nephron

nephrotic syndrome (nef-ROT-ik) (SIN-droh-m): a collection of symptoms that indicate *kidney* damage. Symptoms include high levels of *protein* in the *urine*, lack of protein in the blood, and high blood cholesterol.

nephropathy (neh-FROP-uh-thee): disease of the *kidneys*.

neurogenic bladder (NOO-roh-JEN-ik) (BLAD-ur): loss of *bladder* control caused by damage to the nerves controlling the bladder.

nocturia (nokt-YOO-ree-uh): frequent urination at night.

nuclear scan (NOO-klee-ur) (skan): a test of the structure, blood flow, and function of the *kidneys*. The doctor injects a mildly radioactive solution into a patient's arm vein and uses x rays to monitor its progress through the kidneys.

O-P

OAB (OH-AY-BEE): see *overactive bladder*.

overactive bladder (OAB) (OH-vur-AK-tiv) (BLAD-ur): a condition in which the patient experiences at least two of the following conditions:

- *urinary urgency*
- *urge urinary incontinence*
- *urinary frequency*—defined for this condition as urination eight or more times a day or more than twice at night

overflow urinary incontinence (OH-vur-floh) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (in-KON-tih-nenss): unexpected leakage of small amounts of *urine* because of a full *bladder*.

oxalate (OK-suh-layt): a chemical that combines with *calcium* in *urine* to form *calcium oxalate stones*, the most common type of *kidney stone*.

painful bladder syndrome (PBS) (PAYN-fuhl) (BLAD-ur) (SIN-droh-m): see *interstitial cystitis*.

pancreas (PAN-kree-uhss): an organ that makes *insulin* and enzymes for digestion. The pancreas is located behind the lower part of the stomach and is about the size of a hand.

PBS (PEE-BEE-ESS): see *painful bladder syndrome* and *interstitial cystitis*.

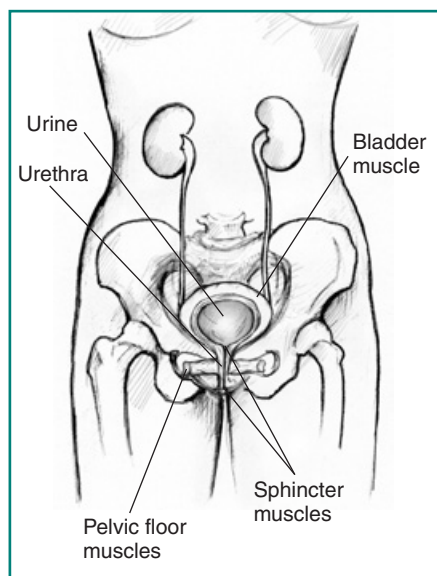
pelvic floor muscles (PEL-vik) (flor) (MUHSS-uhlz): muscles that support the *bladder*, bowel, and *uterus*.

pelvic muscle exercises (PME) (PEL-vik) (MUHSS-uhl) (EK-sur-SYZ-iz): see *Kegel exercises*.

pelvic organ prolapse (POP) (PEL-vik) (OR-guhn) (PROH-laps): sinking of the *bladder*, bowel, and *uterus* out of their normal positions.

P

pelvis (PEL-viss): the bowl-shaped bone that supports the spine and holds up the digestive, urinary, and reproductive organs. The legs connect to the body at the pelvis.



Pelvis

penis (PEE-niss): the male organ used for urination and sex.

percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PUR-kyoo-TAY-nee-uhss) (NEF-roh-lih-THOT-uh-mee): a method for removing **kidney stones** via surgery through a small incision in the back.

pessary (PESS-uh-ree): a specially designed object worn in the **vagina** to hold the **bladder**, rectum, or **uterus** in its correct position and prevent leakage of **urine**. Pessaries come in many shapes and sizes.

Peyronie's disease (pay-roh-NEEZ) (dih-ZEEZ): a plaque, or hardened area, that forms on the **penis**, preventing that area from stretching. During **erection**, the penis bends in the direction of the plaque, or the plaque may lead to indentation and shortening of the penis.

pituitary gland (pih-TOO-ih-TAIR-ee) (gland): a pea-sized gland at the base of the brain that regulates the body's balance of **hormones**.

PME (PEE-EM-EE): see **pelvic muscle exercises**.

polyuria (POL-ee-YOO-ree-uh): overproduction of **urine** by the **kidneys**, resulting in excessive urination.

POP (PEE-OH-PEE): see **pelvic organ prolapse**.

posterior urethral valves (PUV) (poss-TIHR-ee-ur) (yoo-REE-thruhl) (valvz): a birth defect in boys in which an abnormal fold of tissue in the **urethra** keeps **urine** from flowing freely out of the **bladder**.

postvoid residual (PVR) (POHST-voyd) (ree-ZID-yoo-uhl): **urine** that remains in the **bladder** after urination.

priapism (PRY-uh-pizm): a persistent, often painful **erection** of the **penis** not caused by sexual desire.

prostate (PROSS-tayt): in men, a walnut-shaped gland that surrounds the **urethra** at the neck of the **bladder**. The prostate supplies fluid that goes into semen.

prostatectomy (PROSS-tuh-TEK-tuh-mee): removal of the entire **prostate** gland.

prostate-specific antigen (PSA) (PROSS-tayt) (spuh-SIF-ik) (AN-tih-jen): a **protein** made only by the **prostate** gland. High levels of PSA in the blood may be a sign of prostate cancer.

prostatitis (PROSS-tuh-TY-tiss): **inflammation** of the **prostate** gland. **Chronic** prostatitis means the prostate gets inflamed repeatedly. The most common form of prostatitis is not associated with any known infecting organism.

protein (PROH-teen): 1. one of the three main nutrients in food. Foods that provide protein include meat, poultry, fish, cheese, milk, dairy products, eggs, and dried beans. 2. proteins are also used in the body for cell structure, fighting infection, and other functions. After the body's cells use protein, it is broken down into waste products containing nitrogen that must be removed by the **kidneys**. The blood absorbs **amino acids** and uses them to build and mend cells.

proteinuria (proh-teen-YOO-ree-uh): a condition in which the **urine** contains large amounts of **protein**, a sign that the **kidneys** are not functioning properly.

PSA (PEE-ESS-AY): see **prostate-specific antigen**.

pus (puhss): thick yellow or white fluid containing white blood cells and other tissues.

P–R

PUV (PEE-YOO-VEE): see *posterior urethral valves*.

PVP (PEE-VEE-PEE): see *transurethral*.

PVR (PEE-VEE-AR): see *postvoid residual*.

pyelogram (PY-el-oh-GRAM): an x ray using injected dye that shows the *urinary tract*, including the *kidneys*, *ureters*, *bladder*, and *urethra*.

pyelonephritis (PY-uh-loh-neh-FRY-tiss): an infection of the *kidneys*, usually caused by a germ that has traveled up through the *urethra*, *bladder*, and *ureters* from outside the body.

pyuria (py-YOO-ree-uh): *pus* in the *urine*, often a sign of a *urinary tract infection* or other condition.

renal (REE-nuhl): of or relating to the *kidneys*. A renal disease is a disease of the kidneys. Renal failure means the kidneys have stopped working properly.

renal pelvis (REE-nuhl) (PEL-viss): the area where *urine* formed by the *kidneys* is collected and excreted before it travels to the *ureters* and *bladder*.

reflux (REE-fluhks): see *vesicoureteral reflux*.

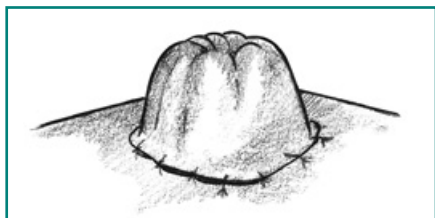
retention (ree-TEN-shuhn): see *urinary retention*.

sling procedure (sling) (proh-SEE-jur): a surgical procedure to treat female **stress urinary incontinence** in which a strip of material is wrapped around the **urethra** for support.

sphincter (SFINGK-tur): a round muscle that opens and closes to let fluid or other matter pass into or out of an organ. Sphincter muscles keep the **bladder** closed until it is time to **urinate**.

stent: a small tube placed inside a passage, such as the **urethra** or a blood vessel, to keep that passage open.

stoma (STOH-muh): a surgically created opening in the abdomen that allows passage of **urine** or **stool**. Urinary stomas must be covered at all times by a pouch that collects urine.



Stoma

stone (stohn): see **kidney stone**.

stool: the solid waste that passes through the rectum as a bowel movement. Stool is undigested food, **bacteria**, mucus, and dead cells. Also called feces.

stress test: a simple test in which the patient coughs to see if the internal stress of that action causes **urine** to leak from the **bladder**.

stress urinary incontinence (stress) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (in-KON-tih-nenss): leakage of **urine** caused by actions—such as coughing, laughing, sneezing, running, or lifting—that place pressure on the **bladder** from inside the body. Stress urinary incontinence can result from either a **cystocele** or weak **sphincter** muscles.

stricture (STRIK-choor): narrowing of a bodily passage, such as a **ureter** or the **urethra**.

struvite stone (STROO-vyt) (stohn): a type of **kidney stone** caused by infection.

T

testicles (TESS-tih-kuhls): the two male glands below the *penis* that make sperm.

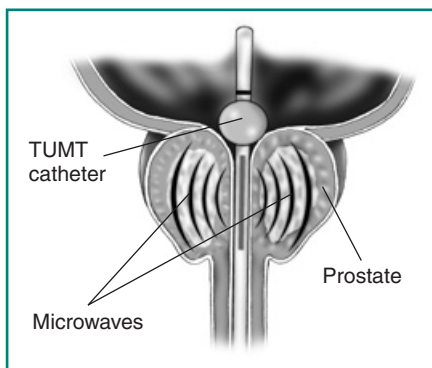
timed voiding or toileting: the practice of urinating or taking someone to the bathroom at set times to increase the *bladder's* capacity to hold more *urine* for longer periods of time.

transient incontinence (TRAN-see-uhnt) (in-KON-tih-nenss): incontinence that lasts a short time. Transient incontinence is usually caused by a temporary condition, such as a *urinary tract infection*.

transurethral (TRANZ-yoo-REE-thruhl): through the *urethra*. Several transurethral procedures are treatments for *benign prostatic hyperplasia*:

- **PVP (photoselective vaporization of the prostate):** destruction of excess *prostate* tissue interfering with the exit of *urine* from the body by using a controlled laser beam inside the prostate.

- **TUIP (transurethral incision of the prostate):** widening of the *urethra* by making a few small cuts in the *bladder* neck—where the urethra joins the bladder—and in the *prostate* gland itself.
- **TUMT (transurethral microwave thermotherapy):** procedure that destroys excess *prostate* tissue interfering with the exit of *urine* from the body by using a probe in the *urethra* to deliver microwaves.

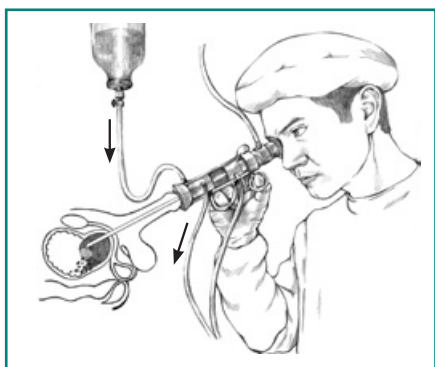


TUMT

- **TUNA (transurethral needle ablation):** technique that destroys excess *prostate* tissue with electromagnetically generated heat by using a needlelike device in the *urethra*.

T-U

- **TURP (transurethral resection of the prostate):** removal of the excess *prostate* tissue using an instrument with an electrical loop.



TURP

TUIP (TEE-YOO-EYE-PEE): see *transurethral*.

TUMT (TEE-YOO-EM-TEE): see *transurethral*.

TUNA (TEE-YOO-EN-AY or TOO-nuh): see *transurethral*.

TURP (TEE-YOO-AR-PEE or turp): see *transurethral*.

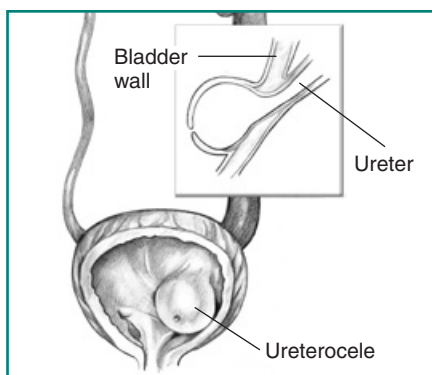
UI (YOO-EYE): see *urinary incontinence*.

ultrasound (UHL-truh-sound): a technique that bounces safe, painless sound waves off organs to create an image of their structure.

UPJ (YOO-PEE-JAY): see *ureteropelvic junction*.

urea (yoo-REE-uh): a waste product found in the blood that results from the normal breakdown of *protein* in the liver. Urea is normally removed from the blood by the *kidneys* and then excreted in the *urine*.

ureterocele (yoo-REE-tur-oh-seel): a birth defect in which a *ureter* swells where it empties into the *bladder*, often blocking the flow of *urine* from the *kidney*.

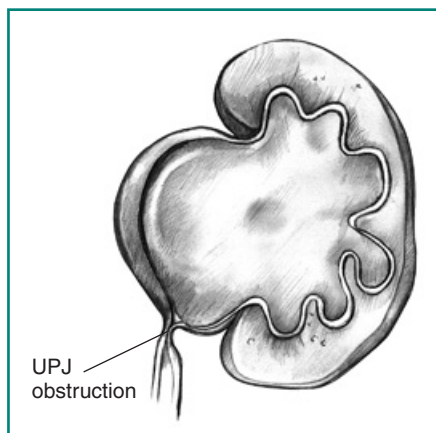


Ureterocele

U

ureteropelvic junction (UPJ) (yoo-REE-tur-oh-PEL-vik) (JUHNK-shuhn): the point where a *ureter* joins the *kidney*.

ureteropelvic junction obstruction (yoo-REE-tur-oh-PEL-vik) (JUHNK-shuhn) (ob-STRUHK-shuhn): blockage of *urine* at the *ureteropelvic junction*, causing the *kidney* to swell.



Ureteropelvic junction obstruction

ureteroscope (yoo-REE-tur-oh-skohp): a tool for examining the *bladder* and *ureters* and for removing *kidney stones* through the *urethra*. The procedure is called ureteroscopy.

ureterostomy (yoo-REE-tur-OSS-tuh-mee): a form of *urostomy* in which the *ureters* are directly connected to the *stoma*.

ureters (YOOR-uh-turz): tubes that carry *urine* from the *kidneys* to the *bladder*.

urethra (yoo-REE-thruh): the tube that carries *urine* from the *bladder* to the outside of the body.

urethral obstruction (yoo-REE-thrul) (ob-STRUHK-shuhn): a blockage in the *urethra*. A *kidney stone* is the most common cause.

urethritis (YOO-ruh-THRY-tiss): *inflammation* of the *urethra*.

urge urinary incontinence (urj) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (in-KON-tih-nenss): urinary leakage when the *bladder* contracts unexpectedly.

uric acid stone (YOOR-ik) (ASS-id) (stohn): a *kidney stone* that may result from a diet high in animal *protein*. When the body breaks down this protein, uric acid levels rise and can form *stones*.

urinalysis (YOOR-ih-NAL-ih-siss):

a test of a *urine* sample that can reveal many problems of the *urinary tract* and other body systems. The sample may be observed for color, cloudiness, concentration; signs of drug use; chemical composition, including *glucose*; the presence of *protein*, blood cells, or *bacteria*; or other signs of disease.

urinary calculi (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (KAL-kyoo-ly): see *kidney stones*.**urinary diversion** (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (duh-VUR-zhuhn): a way to release *urine* from the body when the *bladder* does not function properly. Urinary diversions include *urostomy*, *continent cutaneous reservoir*, and *bladder substitute*, or *neobladder*.**urinary frequency** (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (FREE-kwen-see): urination eight or more times a day.**urinary incontinence** (UI) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (in-KON-tih-nenss): loss of *bladder control*; the accidental loss of *urine*.**urinary retention** (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (ree-TEN-shuhn): the inability to empty the *bladder* completely.**urinary tract** (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (trakt): the system that takes wastes from the blood and carries them out of the body in the form of *urine*. The urinary tract includes the *kidneys*, *renal pelvises*, *ureters*, *bladder*, and *urethra*.**urinary tract infection** (UTI) (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (trakt) (in-FEK-shuhn): an illness caused by harmful *bacteria* growing in the *urinary tract*.**urinary urgency** (YOOR-ih-NAIR-ee) (UR-jen-see): inability to delay urination.**urinate** (YOOR-ih-nayt): to release *urine* from the *bladder* to the outside of the body.**urine** (YOOR-in): liquid waste product filtered from the blood by the *kidneys*, stored in the *bladder*, and expelled from the body through the *urethra* by the act of voiding or urinating. See *urinate* and *void*.

U

urodynamic tests (YOOR-oh-dy-NAM-ik) (tests): tests that measure the *bladder's* ability to hold and release *urine*.

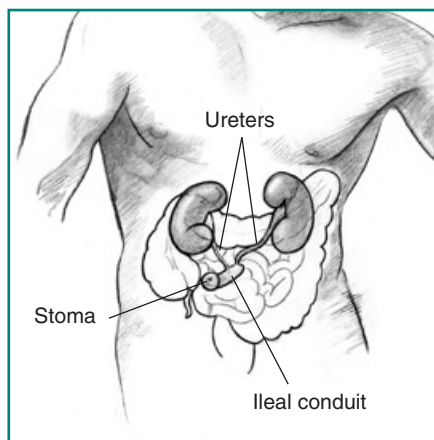
uroflow test (YOOR-oh-floh) (test): measurement of the rate at which *urine* flows out of the body. A lower than normal rate can indicate blockage.

urogynecologist (YOOR-oh-GY-nuh-KOL-uh-jist): a doctor who is trained in urology and gynecology and specializes in female urinary problems.

urolithiasis (YOOR-oh-lih-THY-uh-siss): the condition of having *stones* in the *urinary tract*.

urologist (yoo-ROL-uh-jist): a doctor who specializes in urinary problems.

urostomy (yoor-OSS-toh-mee): an opening through the skin into the *urinary tract* to allow *urine* to drain when voiding through the *urethra* is not possible.



Urostomy

uterus (YOO-tuhr-uhss): female organ, located in the *pelvis*, where a baby develops before birth. Also called a *womb*.

UTI (YOO-TEE-EYE): see *urinary tract infection*.

V-W

vagina (vuh-JY-nuh): the tube in a woman's body that runs beside the **urethra** and connects the **womb**, or **uterus**, to the outside of the body. Sometimes called the birth canal.

vasopressin (VAY-soh-PRESS-in): see **antidiuretic hormone**.

VCUG (VEE-SEE-YOO-JEE): see **voiding cystourethrogram**.

vesicoureteral reflux (VESS-ih-koh-yoo-REE-tur-uhl) (REE-fluhks): an abnormal condition in which **urine** backs up into the **ureters**, and occasionally into the **kidneys**, raising the risk of infection.

void: to **urinate**; to empty the **bladder**.

voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) (VOYD-ing) (SISS-toh-yoo-REETH-roh-gram): an x-ray image of the **bladder** and **urethra** taken during voiding. The bladder and urethra are filled with a special fluid to make the urethra clearly visible.

vulva (VUHL-vuh): the outer part of the female **genitals**.

womb (woom): see **uterus**.

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